

[24 November, 2006]

RAJYASABHA

Obesity and overweight among school children

354. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of obesity and overweight are rising and affecting even the urban poor and school children in the country; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the steps taken or proposed to be taken for safeguarding such problems of obesity and overweight in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the overall cross sectional study suggests an increase in the prevalence of obesity and overweight over the period. Across sectional study undertaken in Delhi schools show that the prevalence rate of overweight and obese children is 29%. This is an increase from previous studies which showed it as 16% (2002-2004, adolescents). According to ICMR, 2nd report of National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau showed that the prevalence of obesity was 2.3% and 2.4% in males and females respectively during 1975-79 which increased to 3.8% and 6.0% respectively 1996-97.

"(b) The main reasons attributed to the rising prevalence of overweight and obesity include reduced level of physical activity/increase in sedentary life style as also increased consumption of calorie dense and nutrient deficient food items. Since creating awareness through information, education and communication is the main strategy to tackle this issue, this component has been incorporated in the proposed National Programme for Control of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD).

Spreading of AIDS through syringes

355. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news reports that India dangerously underestimated the number of its estimated 5.7

million HIV-infected people who caught the virus through reused needles in hospitals and similar hygiene lapses;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that feuilly Wood-testing kits for HIV and Hepatitis may have been fraudulently sold to Government clinics across the country, possibly resulting in people receiving transfusions of infected blood; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) India had an estimated 5.2 million HIV infected people by the end of 2005. The probable mode of transmission among the reported number of AIDS cases has been observed to be sexual mode of transmission in 05.7%, transmission from mother to child-4.3%, blood and blood products as 1.9% and Injecting drug users as 1.8%. In 6% of the cases the mode of transmission could not be determined. There is no compelling evidence that unsafe injections are a predominant mode of HIV transmission, except in injection drug users. Clinical history and epidemiological evidence indicate that sexual transmission is the major mode of transmission.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Reports were received regarding supply of - substandard testing kits for Hepatitis-B and C, which were supplied to blood banks in the State of West Bengal, by a Hyderabad based company called M/S Monozym India Ltd.. However, there are no reported cases of possibility resulting in people receiving transfusions of infected blood.

In view of the complaint received from West Bengal State AIDS Control Society, all State AIDS Control Societies have been directed to suspend proposals if any, to procure from Monozyme India Ltd and to strictly follow guidelines and procedures laid down. Further, the Drugs Controller General (India) has been asked to investigate into the matter and take appropriate action under rules.

Upgrading of Virology Institute, Alapuzha

356. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that during the recent